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US shoots down Syria 'no fly zone' idea

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House on Friday all but ruled out the notion of mounting a no-fly zone in Syria, billing it as difficult, dangerous and costly, and unsuitable to halting close quarters ground battles.

A day after US officials pledged to stiffen military help to Syrian rebels, likely moving towards sending some form of arms for the first time, they made it clear that swift US mission creep in the country is not on the cards.

Deputy national security advisor Ben Rhodes said mounting a no-fly zone in Syria poses significant logistical and strategic challenges that are more acute than those faced by NATO and Arab League allies in Libya in 2011.

"It's dramatically more difficult and dangerous and costly in Syria, for a variety of reasons," Rhodes said.

"One is that in Libya, you already had a situation where the opposition controlled huge portions of the country and you could essentially protect those portions of the country from the air.

"You do not have the same types of air defense system that exist within Syria. So in that regard, it's more difficult."

Rhodes also argued that in many cases, rebels and forces fighting with Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime were "fighting in some instances block by block in cities" in a way that made targeting particular forces difficult.

"I think people need to understand that the no-fly zone is not some type of silver bullet that is going to stop a very intense and, in some respect, sectarian conflict," Rhodes said, stressing though that Washington was not ruling out options, some strategic approaches would not work.

"We don't at this point believe that the US has a national interest in pursuing a very intense, open-ended military engagement through a no-fly zone in Syria at this juncture."

Domestic opponents of the White House have demanded that Obama set up a no-fly zone in Syria to protect refugees and rebels from air strikes.

Monument to Aruba's fishermen lost at sea to be placed at Governor's Beach



Castro Perez, Nathalie Maduro and Randy Maduro

The Santa Rosa Center of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries announced that for the past year the center has been working on a project for a monument dedicated to island fishing folk who have been lost at sea.

Nathalie Maduro, representing Santa Rosa, along with Castro Perez and Randy Maduro, welcomed island media to the Centro di Piscado Hadicurari on Thursday afternoon to announce that an evaluation of submitted designs has resulted in artist Gilbert Sanchi being selected to create the memorial.

The project was initiated by Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, whose ministry administers the Santa Rosa Center. It is felt that those who labored through the years to provide fresh fish to the island population and support their families through this time-honored profession, particularly those who died while at sea in the past 50 years, deserved this tribute. Their efforts maintained a beloved part of Aruba's traditional culture.

Graphic Artist Fernando Vermeer has also been awarded the project of creating a "coffee table" book of the history of the fisherman, garnered from photos and documents collected by the center over the past year. Castro Perez explained they have collected about 30 his-

located on the second level of their building between MooMba Beach Bar and the Marriott Surf Club.

The names of the lost fisherman will be listed on the monument, which will stand on the spit of land directly across from what was the Governor's Residence in Oranjestad.

It was also announced that to prevent further tragedies, island fisherman registered with Hadicurari Center will all be awarded safety kits compliments of the government.

Continued on pg 2

FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

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Monument to Aruba's fishermen lost at sea ...

Continued from pg 1



They include several essential items that all going out to sea should have on their vessels, no matter how small. It is un-

equipment, continuing to fish as their ancestors did. It is hoped that such measures will help prevent more names

Safety packs being distributed to fisherman

fortunately the practice of many of the fisherman using the traditional small wooden boats to be rather nonchalant regarding carrying such basic

being added to those listed on the memorial.

Islanders and visitors are invited to join the celebration for this year's international

Day of the Fisherman celebration on Sunday, July 7 at the "Waf Chiquito" on the beachfront at the north side of Oranjestad Harbor. The festivities will include local entertainment, food,

refreshments and souvenir booths, as well as the famous annual fishing contest. Fisherman will be required to bring their catch to Oranjestad for weigh-in and judging, after which many sell their

haul to the public at bargain rates. All are urged to support our local fisherman and enjoy this traditional celebration beginning at 10:00 AM.

By Rosalie Klein



FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 15 JUNI 2012

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Aruba honors their guests



Recently at the Divi Phoenix Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for 10 and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Visitor certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are given the Goodwill Ambassador certificate.

The recent honoring were given by the Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger at the Divi Phoenix Resort which they call their home away from home. Honorees are Helen & Robert McPeak and Jacqueline Allen as Goodwill Ambassadors.

Christina Frasco as Distinguished Visitor.

On picture the honorees together with Pedro Vargas, Mr. Griffith and Avril of the Divi Phoenix and Marouska Heyliger.

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EU reaches compromise on US free trade talks

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union thrashed out a compromise Friday on how to negotiate the world's biggest free trade deal with the United States, meeting France's de-

mands to ensure its prized 'cultural exception' would not be bargained away.

EU officials said trade ministers had agreed that the audiovisual sector would be

excluded from the talks mandate, as demanded by Paris, but that the European Commission would have the right to raise "any issue" during the negotiations if it saw fit later, meeting the needs of both sides.

French Commerce Minister Nicole Briq said she welcomed the outcome because it gave Paris "the exclusion of the audiovisual sector" since if the Commission asked for it to be included in the future, that would require a unanimous vote -- that is, France would have a veto.

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, who will lead the talks, stressed meanwhile that the accord was "not a carve out."

"I am going to listen to what my American friends say on this (and) then we can then ... ask for additional mandates" if needed, De Gucht said.

He said he could "live with" the agreed mandate, adding that he found the French position "understandable" given that technological change was happening so fast in the sector.

It was better to have the flexibility to come back to the issue as the situation develops, he added.

Washington has said no areas should be excluded from the talks and EU officials had repeatedly warned that any exceptions would only hand Washington an early bargaining chip in what promises to be very tough negotiations.



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TGI Friday's in Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall has some fresh new offerings



Bacon Guacamole Cheddar burger



Philly Cheese Steak wrap

Local media had the great good luck to be invited to the launching of new items to the famous TGI Friday's menu, which will be available starting today. Restaurant Manager Juan Vega and staff took great pleasure in providing sampling of some tasty new dishes and announcing some money saving specials for fans of the franchise.

day through Friday. Perfect snacks to accompany a large selection of exotic cocktails made with premium brand liquors or the best of beers for only \$4 a bottle, and some very attractive beer bucket specials.

Other tasty platters sample during the media lunch were the new Fish and Chips, with exceptionally moist and tender grouper chunks fried up just right, a Guacamole/Bacon/Cheddar Burger, Philly Cheese Steak Wrap and a hefty helping of fish filet in the Dragonfire Salmon. The last has a spicy/sweet glaze



Thumbs up for Grouper Fingers

There was a time when a huge wedge of lettuce with your favorite dressing was all the rage as a salad, and the TGI Friday's has added two versions to their extensive salad menu, with bleu cheese or Italian dressing. Non-meat eaters also have the option of a fresh veggie wrap.

Exotic new appetizers include a delicious Spinach Dip and Potstickers, lightly sautéed Asian dumplings with dipping sauce. Their standbys of chicken wings, potato skins and Mozzarella Sticks can now be enjoyed at half price during the daily Happy Hour from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, Mon-

and is a perfect alternative for those watching their diets.

Heartier appetites will find a new addition to the eatery's collection of Jack Daniel's selections, featuring their famous bourbon infused steaks; a double cheddar/bacon burger that taste testers could barely wrap their mouth around.

Restaurant Manager Juan explained that TGI Friday's is always seeking to accommodate the varying tastes and special dietary requirements of their patrons by continually updating their menu and offering a great diversity of dishes.

By Rosalie Klein

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Story telling, poetry and more for Aruba's elderly

Aruba's National library, in cooperation with poets, authors and storytellers on the island brings special activities to the elderly. A well-motivated team of librarians and sound technicians visits the elderly homes on Tuesday mornings. The elderly are treated to mornings of literature, music, dancing and movie watching for weeks in a row.

Goal of the story-telling project is to help keep the elderly socially active as well as to promote reading. The story telling project has a duration of 3 months and is specifically designed for the less mobile group in the society, the residents of the different elderly homes on the island. The project turned out to be quite successful. Librarians put an attractive program of poetry and storytelling together. By



Roberto Croes reciting one of his poems

watching sketches about proverbs and sayings by amateur actors the participants are triggered to dig up and share nice memories of times gone by.

The library received a donation from the service club

Kiwanis Palm Beach. Kiwanis helps out with an allowance for the authors and storytellers to cover some basic expenses. The library will continue to develop projects for seniors in 2013.



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Swazi town outlaws public smooching



MBABANE (AFP) - Kissing in one town in the kingdom of Swaziland could now land you in a bit of trouble.

Love birds locked in spasms of romance in the town of Siteki have been forewarned: their amorous embrace may cost them a \$12 fine.

"Public kissing that is to the extreme and causes other people to be uneasy will be covered by our by-laws. It will be regarded to be public indecency," town clerk Mzwandile Ndzinisa told AFP.

A peck on a baby's cheek doesn't fall in the punitive category, he added.

Swaziland, sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarchy, already has tough public order laws.

Cities forbid indecencies like urinating in public, street vending and littering.

But Siteki goes a step further.

"What is done in private should be done in private, not in public. The law addresses public issues in public places," said town treasurer Sthembile Simeane.

Siteki resident Thembi Mdlovu agreed that smooching in the open is unacceptable.

"Kissing in public is not practised in our culture. I think we should respect our culture," she said.

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Malaysia Airlines says UK asked carrier not to fly Snowden to Britain

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - The British government asked Malaysia's national airline not to allow former spy Edward Snowden to board flights to the United Kingdom, the carrier said Friday, after he leaked details of Washington's secret surveillance programmes.

The directive came following reports that the UK had issued an alert to airlines around

the world urging them not to allow the former CIA employee to board flights to Britain.

The British government told carriers to deny Snowden passage on UK-bound flights because "the individual is highly likely to be refused entry to the UK", the Associated Press said.

US sets bar higher for North Korea talks

WASHINGTON, June 14, 2013 (AFP) - The United States on Friday demanded that North Korea take concrete steps to ease concerns, saying that the communist state's recent actions had set the bar higher for a resumption of dialogue.

North Korea engaged in some of its most fiery rhetoric in years after conducting its third nuclear test in February, but tensions have since eased with attempts -- ultimately unsuccessful -- to restart talks with South Korea.

Glyn Davies, the US pointman on North Korea policy, said the United States was exasperated with Pyongyang after it snubbed attempts by President Barack Obama's administration to reach out in 2009 and again in 2012.

"The United States will not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state. We will not reward the DPRK for the absence of bad behavior," Davies said, using the North's official name of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"Nor will we tolerate North Korea provoking its neighbors. These positions will not change," he said in Washington at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a think tank.

Davies repeated US calls on North Korea to take steps to end its nuclear weapons pro-

gram in line with previous agreements -- and said that this year's crisis increased Washington's hesitancy to engage again.

"We've long made clear that we are open to improved relations with the DPRK if it is willing to take concrete actions to live up to its international obligations and commitments -- though given the events of this past year, the bar for a resumption of meaningful engagement is now certainly higher."

"Ultimately, we will judge the DPRK not by its words, but by its actions -- the concrete actions it takes to address the core concerns of the international community," he said.

Satellite images analyzed by two private institutes have found that North Korea is pushing ahead with work on its nuclear program and could soon restart a reactor to produce plutonium.

Advocacy groups have long accused the United States and its allies of putting its focus solely on North Korea's nuclear weapons and ignoring a totalitarian system often considered the world's most draconian.

"US-DPRK relations cannot fundamentally improve without sustained improvement in inter-Korean relations and human rights," Davies said.

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Father's Day is being celebrated this Sunday June 16th and Paseo Herencia has everything that you need to make "Dad's day a special one. "We have fabulous offers in our exclusive stores, such as Havana Nines who just received a new collection, Sparkles giving a 35% discount on watches and Kristies Jewels with their 20% discount on watches and jewelry for men," said a spokesperson.

"Our restaurants are preparing delicious international dishes such as from Le Bistro and Scala and if you are seeking a sports atmosphere, TGI Friday is the place to be. Iguana Cantina, specialized in Mexican Food and



Pizzo's is the place for a delicious Italian pizza. After making sure Dad is well fed take him for dessert, a creamy sweet ice cream of

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International News

Putin, Obama to talk Syria at G8

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Barack Obama will hold a bilateral meeting at the G8 summit in Northern Ireland after Washington upped the ante in the Syrian war by pledging military aid to rebels, the Kremlin's foreign policy aide said.

Putin and Obama will meet on the sidelines of the G8 summit at the Lough Erne resort on Monday and will also kickstart a Syria session at the summit at the request of host Britain.

Since the start of the conflict in 2011, Moscow has supported Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, while Washington backs the opposition.

Syria is also expected to top the agenda of Putin's talks with Obama, their meeting coming after Washington accused Assad of using chemical weapons against his people and promised "military support" to rebel forces.

Moscow immediately said the US claims that the Damascus regime had used the chemical weapons were "unconvincing" and hurt peace efforts, referring to plans by Russia and the United States to hold a Syrian peace conference in Geneva.

The conference was supposed to build on the never implemented Geneva accord agreed in the Swiss city last June, but the plans to convene the new conference have repeatedly been pushed back.

In a separate statement, the Kremlin said that Putin and Obama also plan to discuss ramping up anti-terror cooperation following the twin bombing attacks in Boston.

The April attacks blamed on suspects of Chechen origin proved the need for "close cooperation between Russian and US special services free of politicisation," the statement said.



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Nicaragua grants bid to build Panama Canal rival

MANAGUA (AFP) - Nicaraguan lawmakers on approved a controversial deal that would allow a Hong Kong company to build a \$40 billion oceanic waterway to rival the Panama Canal, and then manage it for the next 50 years.

The law granting the concession to HK Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co., known as HKND Group and

owned by Beijing-based entrepreneur Wang Jing, aim to fulfill a long-held national dream for a waterway linking this nation's Caribbean coast to the Pacific.

The project is highly controversial because the little-known company was founded less than a year ago, and because of its huge pricetag -- the equivalent of twice this improv-

erished country's GDP.

Opposition politicians, environmentalists, economists and indigenous communities have criticized the project, saying the government of President Daniel Ortega is "mortgaging Nicaragua" to a company created by "a Chinese businessman nobody knows."

"The president has gone mad," said Sandinista dissi-

dent Congressman Victor Tinoco, casting the deal as a plan by Ortega and Wang to "become fabulously wealthy."

The head of the opposition bloc, Eduardo Montealegre, blasted the law as "unconstitutional, fraudulent and harmful to our interests."

Ortega -- whose administration only has diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not

Beijing -- is set to sign the agreement in Managua with the company, which has also created a subsidiary in the Cayman Islands.

The plan includes building a canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through Nicaraguan territory, along with ports, an airport, pipeline and a railway. A free trade zone is also set to be created.

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Health & Living

Sarin: a lethal nerve gas that kills in minutes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Sarin, a deadly nerve gas which the United States now says the Syrian regime has used against rebel forces, was developed by Nazi scientists in 1938.

Originally conceived as a pesticide, sarin was used by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime to gas thousands of Kurds in the northern town of Halabja in 1988.

A cult also used the odorless, paralyzing agent in two attacks in Japan in the 1990s.

White House officials said Thursday that US intelligence agencies, working with European allies, concluded that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime had employed the gas in its fight with rebels.

France and Britain have already said lab tests of samples from Syria showed the regime had resorted to chemical weapons.

Inhaled or absorbed through the skin, the gas kills by crippling the respiratory center of the central nervous system and paralyzes the muscles around the lungs.

The combination results in death by suffocation, and sarin can also be used to contaminate food or water supplies, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which notes that antidotes exist.

"Sarin is 26 times more

deadly than cyanide gas. Just a pinprick-sized droplet will kill a human," according to the World Health Organisation.

Exposure symptoms include nausea and violent headaches, blurred vision, drooling, muscle convulsions, respiratory arrest and loss of consciousness, the CDC says.

Nerve agents are generally quick-acting and require only simple chemical techniques and inexpensive, readily available ingredients to manufacture.

Inhalation of a high dose -- say 200 milligrams of sarin -- may cause death "within a couple of minutes," with no time even for symptoms to develop, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Exposure through the skin takes longer to kill and the first symptoms may not occur for half an hour, followed by a quick progression.

Even when it does not kill, sarin's effects can cause permanent harm -- damaging a victim's lungs, eyes and central nervous system.

Heavier than air, the gas can linger in an area for up to six hours, depending on weather conditions, killing seven.

The Syrian regime is believed to control hundreds of tonnes of various chemical agents, according to Leonard Spector of the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

WHO says MERS virus death toll hits 33

GENEVA (AFP) - The global death toll from the SARS-like virus MERS has risen to 33, after two new fatalities in Saudi Arabia, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

Spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said the Saudi health ministry had informed the UN agency of three new laboratory-confirmed cases, one of them fatal, and the death of a patient already diagnosed with the disease.

Until last month, the disease was known simply as novel coronavirus, before being renamed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS-CoV, as cases initiated in that region.

There have now been 44 confirmed cases in Saudi Arabia, 28 of them fatal, according to WHO figures.

WHO logs cases by country of infection, rather than of death, and its Saudi toll includes one individual who died in Britain.

Like SARS, MERS appears to cause a lung infection, with patients suffering from a temperature, cough and breathing trouble. But it differs in that it also causes rapid kidney failure.

Health officials have expressed concern about the high proportion of deaths relative to cases, warning that MERS could spark a new global crisis if it mutates into a form that spreads more easily.

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Fast food: Tips for choosing healthier options



An occasional stop for fast food can fit into a healthy diet if you're careful about what you order. Consider these tips:

- Keep portion sizes small (If the fast-food restaurant offers several sandwich sizes, pick the smallest)
- Choose healthier side dishes (Take advantage of the healthy side dishes offered at many fast-food restaurants)
- Go green (Choose an entree salad with grilled chicken, shrimp or vegetables with fat-free or low-fat dressing on the side)
- Opt for grilled items (Fried and breaded foods, such as crispy chicken sandwiches and breaded fish fillets, are high in fat and calories. Select grilled or roasted lean meats — such as turkey or chicken breast, lean ham, or lean roast beef)
- Watch what you drink!!!!!!!
- Have it your way. Remember you don't have to settle for what comes with your sandwich or meal — not even at fast-food restaurants. Ask for healthier options and substitutions. And keep your eye on portion sizes.

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Sci-Tech Are you up on your Internet scams?

-- The newest barrage in our SPAM box has been e-mails informing us that there is remuneration awaiting us for having been scammed on the net previously. It brings to mind the old adage "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." The arrogant optimism of Internet scammers in believing they could actually take advantage of someone already victimized, is disheartening. In this information age, are supposedly savvy Internet users still that stupid, or do they think that in some remote island of Aruba, they have easy, uniformed victims of the latest communication technology?

As a veteran web surfer (one of the first 50 to sign up with SETARNET way back in 1992), I have fortunately not fallen victim to any scams. One would think by this point, most web users would be pretty smart about obvious swindles, but it appears plenty are snagged each year.

We are not talking about malicious hidden code here, but classic scams that have been around for more than a century, just evolved to take advantage of the Internet and reach out to individuals in distant lands.

A classic that was making the rounds by fax prior to Aruba's Internet service was the "Nigerian Oil Scam," as it is commonly referred to. For some reason, this country seemed to be a viper's nest of hucksters taking advantage of modern technology. There are many variations on this type of scam, including advance fee fraud, Nigerian Letter, Fifo's Fraud, Spanish, black money scam. The number "419" refers to the article of the Nigerian



Criminal Code dealing with fraud. Other nations known to have a high incidence of advance fee fraud include Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, South Africa, Russia, India, Pakistan, the Netherlands, and Spain.

Upon receiving this offer, and reading it closely, the obvious scam elements of convincing the victim to participate in what is clearly an illegal, certainly unethical enterprise, with the promise of big returns, should send alarm bells ringing. When it comes to scams, "you can't cheat an honest man," is the sentiment that allows grifters to ply their trade; greed gets the better of most of us. If you are being promised money for nothing, you know it is a scam. Yet, hundreds of thousands have fallen for it.

This is only one of many, but the latest virus to infect a number of friends' e-mails has recently passed through our inbox, wishing to share pix with the recipient. In this day of sharing everything online from brushing your teeth to what you ate for lunch, putting up photos is common place. There are many malicious codes that provide a link to

share photos, then read an e-mail contact list to send on the same virus to everyone on the list. That is partly why it is called a VIRUS. When an e-mail pops up in Spanish from a friend who knows you don't speak Spanish, or do, but use it rarely, it is reasonable to be highly suspicious of that link. Likewise for such friendly sharing from a sometime business associate. Why on earth would they be sharing pictures or humorous links with you? Always ask yourself these questions before blithely clicking on that link, and perhaps check with them first if they sent it. Don't do this by e-mailing them back, as it is entirely possible their account has been hijacked and is not under their control.

This was proven by one of those pleas from a friend who found themselves stuck in Spain with their wallet and all cash and credit cards stolen, or so it claimed. Please could we send \$1500 ASAP? A separate reply e-mail to inform them they had malicious code in the account was answered with a missive claiming "No, it is true...please send money!" indicating the account was entirely under the control of

another party. The victim of this virus received several phone calls asking her what she was doing in Spain, and did she get home ok?

It is a pity that this wonderful Age of Communication has to be ruined by a criminal element, but miscreants have always been with us, and always will, looking to make an easy buck. Several websites are dedicated to informing on these latest scams, one of the best and most entertaining: <http://www.snopes.com/>. Not only do they deal with scams, but the countless Internet hoaxes that make their way around the net, particularly on Facebook and other social media, which are the unintentional gossip and false information mongers of the web.

It is remarkable with what speed false information can be planted and spread on such sites. Diatribes credited to Bill Cosby, Morgan Freeman, President Barack Obama and other famous personalities, are given gravitas because of their celebrity and intellect, but that don't make 'em so. In fact, in the case of the "I'm Tired" Cosby Rant, the comedian was most emphatic in stating it was totally opposed to his stance

on every issue. For some, it just sounded like something he would say.

Why do people do this? Attention, narcissism, their "15 minutes of fame," who knows? The manipulation of forums by ingenious and malicious people posting to create irritation and antagonism is well known as "trolling." The lengths to which this goes is at times remarkable, including something I was able to personally witness: the same person posting as two different people, (likely from two computers next to each other, to mask the same ISP, or two friends doing it) who had an extremely nasty argument with each other on the forum. This creates a general tone for the discussion, and other posters start to behave similarly, while the perpetrators watch and laugh.

All of these things are what Internet users must contend with in normal use; we are not even discussing predators in chat rooms victimizing the young, innocent and gullible. Again, the Internet is the most amazing tool for sharing information and communicating, but be wary. Don't open links that seem out of context to your life or business, don't even open e-mails that have links in the subject matter. Research what is currently circulating and most of all, always be skeptical. When it comes to money matters, NEVER, EVER, send a stranger your bank or credit card info. Only shop from an established site, such as Amazon.com. If uncertain, search the net and investigate first, if it is a scam, it will likely be reported somewhere.

by Rosalie Klein



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FINANCE

Gasoline, food push up US producer prices

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US producer prices surged higher in May after two consecutive months of declines, driven by rising gasoline and food costs, government data released Friday showed.

The Labor Department's producer price index rose 0.5 percent in May. Producer prices, a gauge of wholesale inflation, had fallen 0.7 percent in April and 0.6 percent in March.

Core PPI, excluding food and energy prices, moved up a tame 0.1 percent in the seventh monthly gain in a row.

Analysts had expected a 0.1 percent rise in both PPI and core PPI.

The department said that finished energy goods prices accounted for more than 60 percent of the overall index's rise, leaping 1.3 percent with gasoline prices contributing nearly half of the increase.

Food prices rose a more modest 0.6 percent, mainly due to egg prices that soared more than 41 percent.

"Despite this report, the inflation pipeline has thinned in recent months," said Arijit Dutta of Moody's Analytics.



Inflationary pressures have been muted as the economy continues to grow at a modest pace four years after exiting the 2008-2009 Great Recession.

Compared with a year ago, wholesale prices for finished goods were up 1.7 percent. For the first four months of the year, the average year-on-year gain was 1.2 percent.

Oil prices end week on high note

LONDON (AFP) - World oil prices finished on a high note on geopolitical worries in Syria, having begun the week on the back foot following news of strong OPEC oil output, US shale production forecasts and Chinese demand fears.

Other commodities were dented somewhat by weak Chinese data and after the World Bank slashed its growth forecast for China's economy this year to 7.7 percent from 8.4 percent.

Markets were also roiled by fears of central banks pulling the plug on their extraordinary stimulus measures that are aimed at supporting global economic growth.

OIL: World oil prices spiked on Friday, lifted by geopolitical worries particularly in Syria, alongside the weak dollar which stimulates demand.

IMF cuts US 2014 growth forecast, cites budget cuts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The IMF cut its US growth forecast for 2014 to 2.7 percent on Friday, saying the economy is being held back by "excessively rapid and ill-designed" government spending cuts.

The severe sequester cuts, aimed at closing the US deficit, are already taking up to 1.75 percentage points from this year's growth potential.

And even though growth will pick up pace in 2014, it will still be less than the 3.0 percent the IMF previously forecast, due to the impact of the sequester, which requires \$109 billion to be sliced from spending in the coming fiscal year.

In its annual report on the United States, the International Monetary Fund called on Congress to repeal the sequester, saying that stronger growth in

the short term is important both for the US and global economies.

The sequester cuts for this year have had one beneficial outcome, cutting the fiscal deficit by a huge 2.5 percent, the Fund said.

But that is likely too much in a short period.

Despite encouraging a looser fiscal stance now, and despite the narrowing of the fiscal gap, the IMF still warned that Washington needs to do more to address its longer term fiscal imbalances.

With the economy picking up, gross US government debt was projected to peak at 110 percent of gross domestic product in 2015 and start to decline.

That will cause the deficit to begin widening and start pushing the debt ratio back up.

It suggested fundamental tax reforms as part of actions to confront the longer term fiscal shortfall, including eliminating many exemptions and loopholes, and introducing a value-added tax and a carbon tax.

The Fund held its growth forecast for this year at 1.9 percent, saying the pickup will only really start toward the end of the year.

But it said the ongoing, if slow, recovery was being driven by the recovery in the housing market and improved corporate and household balance sheets.

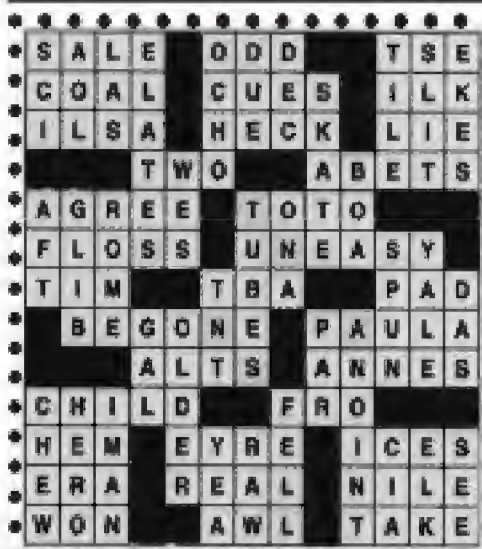
It credited the Federal Reserve's aggressive quantitative easing -- its \$85 billion-a-month bond purchases, to hold down interest rates -- with keeping the economy on a sure footing as the government slashes spending.

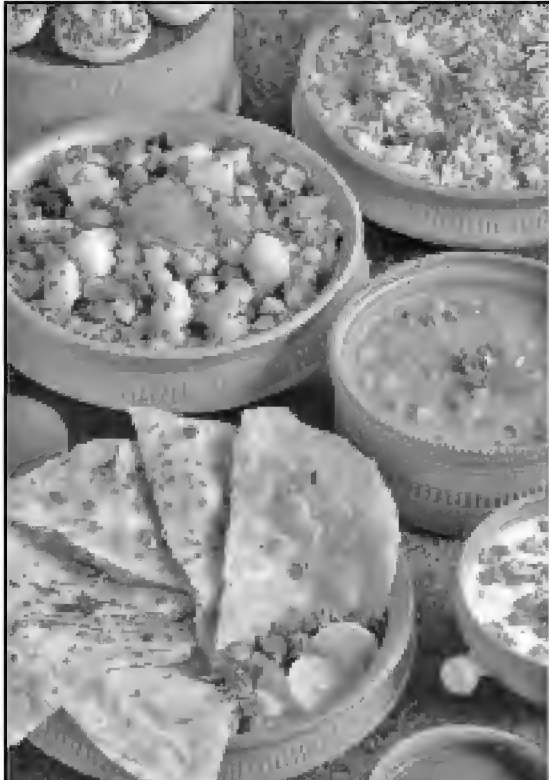
IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the Fed program merited holding in place through this year, noting that the US central bank was still not close to targets on reducing unemployment and on inflation to need to rein in the QE purchases.

When, further down the road -- the IMF predicts early next year -- the Fed begins reducing its bond purchases and holdings to tighten policy, Lagarde urged extreme care in designing and communicating how it does that.

The Fed report said the long period that interest rates have been held exceptionally low has complicated policy-making for emerging-market countries and raises the chance of "potential unintended consequences for domestic financial stability" in the United States.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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TAXI
C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
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582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
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Sudoku

		7	6			1		
6	1					2	5	
			2	1		9	6	
	2					8		
			7		4			
		5					2	
	7	2		8	6			
	9	1					3	6
		6			5	7		

SOLUTION

2	9	4	5	8	1	9	6	7
9	8	5	2	7	4	1	5	6
8	1	7	9	6	3	2	4	5
1	2	9	8	3	5	7	4	6
5	6	8	7	2	4	9	1	3
7	4	8	1	9	5	6	3	2
9	9	8	4	1	2	7	5	6
4	9	2	6	7	9	8	1	3
8	7	1	6	5	9	4	3	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9




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~ Anne Geddes

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plantains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" -- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -- "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from**

11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

Tel. 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com.

from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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Pope tells Welby to stand firm on traditional family values

VATICAN CITY (AFP) -- Pope Francis received the head of the Anglican Church, Justin Welby, for the first time on Friday, praising him for his stance against gay marriage and calling for united action to defend the poor.

Francis urged Welby to continue proclaiming "the sacredness of human life or the importance of the institution of the family built on marriage, a value that you yourself have had occasion to recall recently."

Former oil executive Welby, who was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury in March just weeks after Francis was elected pope, earlier this month tore into the British government's gay marriage bill.

He said he "felt at home" at the Vatican, and hoped that "the closeness of the two inaugurations may serve the reconciliation of the world and the Church" -- an apparent reference to the leaders' common desire to tackle secularism by going out into the streets and meeting the people.

Both Welby and Francis spoke of the importance of reaching out to the world's disadvantaged.

The Argentine pope called on Welby to help give "a voice to the cry of the poor, so that

they are not abandoned to the laws of an economy that seems at times to treat people as mere consumers."

Francis has refused to move into the papal palace, preferring to reside in a modest Vatican hotel, and has made a campaign against the culture of money one of the keystones of his papacy.

Welby is known for taking the bus and has reportedly turned up to interviews with the British media in clothes from charity shop Oxfam and shoes with holes in them.

The 57-year-old Anglican leader said "we must love above all those tossed aside, even whole nations, by the present crisis around the world. If we are not the advocates in the name of Christ, who will be?"

The Anglican Communion split from Catholicism in the 16th century, when Pope Clement VII refused to grant King Henry VIII a divorce, but efforts have been made to reconcile the two churches.

In 2009, tensions between the two Churches re-emerged when the Catholic Church unveiled a new juridical framework that made it easier for Anglicans unhappy with the Church of England's ordination of female and homosexual clergy to join Catholic ranks.



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Assange enlists Puerto Rican band in political fight



LONDON (AFP) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange revealed on Friday how he is spending some of his time living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London -- working on a song with Puerto Rican band Calle 13.

"We are making an interesting song about the new politics as a result of Internet and media distortion," the Australian told reporters, including AFP, in an interview at the embassy.

"It is the most popular Latin American political group and they come from Puerto Rico, which has had its problems with the US."

The 41-year-old former computer hacker did not give any

details of the collaboration, such as whether he will be performing or writing the lyrics.

Assange walked into the embassy on June 19 last year and asked for asylum from Ecuador in a bid to avoid extradition from Britain to Sweden for questioning over alleged sex crimes.

He said he fears that if sent to Sweden, he may be transferred to the United States and prosecuted for the release by WikiLeaks of thousands of classified documents.

Ecuador granted him asylum but Britain refuses to give him safe passage out of the country, leaving him stranded at the embassy.

Happy Birthday song causes legal discord in US

NEW YORK (AFP) - A US film production firm has lodged a lawsuit arguing that the most popular song in the English language, "Happy Birthday to You," should be public property and not subject to copyright.

Good Morning to You Productions (GMTY), which is making a documentary on the tune, said it was forced to pay Warner/Chappell \$1,500 to use the song in order to avoid being fined \$150,000 for unauthorized use.

It has filed suit in a federal court in New York demanding that the government declare invalid the copyright over the song.

The the 26-page lawsuit also demands the return of "millions of dollars of unlawful licensing fees collected by defendant Warner/Chappell pursuant to its wrongful assertion of copyright ownership of the song."

"Defendant Warner/Chappell has collected and contin-



ues to collect at least \$2 million per year in licensing fees for Happy Birthday to You," it added.

A spokesman for Warner/Chappell declined to comment.

According to GMTY, the tune comes from a song called "Good Morning to All," which was composed in 1893 by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill, who sold the rights to Clayton F. Summy.

The song in its present form was released in 1924 by Robert Coleman, setting off a series of legal disputes.

"Irrefutable documentary evidence, some dating back to 1893, shows that the copyright

to 'Happy Birthday to You,' if there ever was a valid copyright to any part of the song, expired no later than 1921," the lawsuit says.

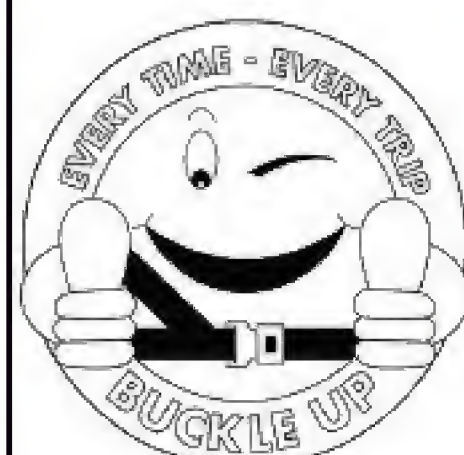
"If defendant Warner/Chappell owns any rights to Happy Birthday to You, those rights are limited to the extremely narrow right to reproduce and distribute a specific piano arrangement for the song published in 1935."

Mark Rifkin, one of the lawyers representing GMTY, told AFP Warner/Chappell has 30 days from when it receives the complaint to respond, with the option of asking a judge to dismiss the suit for the lack of merit.



LODZ (AFP) - Dariusz Bergier, carpenter, artist and restorer of historical furniture poses in his studio in Lodz on June 13, 2013 next to a cradle he designed, which he plans to make a gift of to Kate Middleton and Prince William for their child.

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MAARET -AL-NUMAN (AFP): A Syrian young boy walks holding an old rifle as he helps fighters belonging to the "Martyrs of Maaret al-Numan" battalion on June 13, 2013 in the northwestern town of Maaret al-Numan in the Idlib province. At least 93,000 people, including over 6,500 children, have been killed in Syria's civil war, the United Nations said on June 13, 2013, warning that the true death toll could be far higher.

SPORTS



MATCH SCHEDULE

FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP BRAZIL 2013



Date	Match Details	Semi-Finals	Finals
JUNE 15	Brasilia - 3 p.m. BRAZIL - JAPAN	SEMI - FINALS <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 5px;">June 26 - 3 p.m. (Belo Horizonte)</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;">WINNER group A</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 5px;">June 27 - 3 p.m. (Fortaleza)</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;">WINNER group B</div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">6 p.m. - Rio de Janeiro</div> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; color: #ff0000; padding: 10px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">FINALS</div>
JUNE 16	Rio de Janeiro - 3 p.m. MEXICO - ITALY Recife - 6 p.m. SPAIN - URUGUAY		
JUNE 17	Bello Horizonte - 3 p.m. TAHITI - NIGERIA	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;">Runner-up group B</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;">Runner-up group A</div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">12 noon 3rd Place Losers Semifinals - 1 vs Losers semifinals - 2</div>
JUNE 19	Fortaleza - 3 p.m. BRAZIL - MEXICO Recife - 6 p.m. ITALY - JAPAN		
JUNE 20	Rio de Janeiro - 3 p.m. SPAIN - TAHITI Salvador - 6 p.m. NIGERIA - URUGUAY		
JUNE 22	Belo Horizonte - 3 p.m. JAPAN - MEXICO Salvador - 3 p.m. ITALY - BRAZIL		
JUNE 23	Fortaleza - 3 p.m. NIGERIA - SPAIN Recife - 3 p.m. URUGUAY - TAHITI		

GROUP A: Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Japan

GROUP B: Spain, Uruguay, Tahiti, Nigeria

All matches are in local time - (Aruba)

Football: Nationwide protests mar Confed Cup buildup

BRASILIA (AFP) - Only 24 hours before hosts Brazil take on Japan in the Confederations Cup opener in Brasilia's National Stadium, football took a back seat Friday after protests erupted in several cities across the huge country.

Overnight, police made hundreds of arrests in Sao Paulo, Brazil's business capital, as well as Rio de Janeiro, after thousands of protesters blocked thoroughfares to

protest higher transport fares which already outstripped typical fares in many a European metropolis.

Friday then saw hundreds more protesters gather in Brasilia itself, taking the focus away from the football as they protested urban reform and conditions for health workers.

Some 400 homeless activists burned tyres and blocked access to the sta-

dium, one of the six host stadiums for the Confederations Cup, black smoke billowing around the venue.

Police did not report any arrest or injuries.

Many people are frustrated at the millions being spent on facilities for the football -- \$475 million for the stadium in Brasilia alone -- rather than in reducing marked social inequality.

Police said the demonstra-

tors however later ended their protest after the federal government agreed to meet their representatives.

Since being awarded the Confederations Cup, a World Cup for the first time since 1950 and also the Rio Olympics for 2016, Brazil has embarked on a massive programme of infrastructure and urban reform.

Football's world governing body FIFA has accepted that

things will not be "100 per cent ready" for the event but has warned that it will not tolerate anything less than total readiness come the World Cup, to be hosted across 12 cities.

As the transport fare protests spread to cities including Porto Alegre in the south and Natal in the north, dozens of journalists headed for the Brasilia stadium were engulfed in the protests.

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NBA: Wade, James power Heat past Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - LeBron James made good on his promise and Dwyane Wade got his swagger back as the Miami Heat rebounded from a crushing loss in game three to level the NBA finals at 2-2 on Thursday.

Wade had a throwback game by finishing with 32 points and six steals while James had a game-high 33 points as the Heat defeated San Antonio 109-93 at the ATT Center arena.

Wade, who has been playing on two balky knees, shot 14-of-25 from the field in 39:55 minutes of playing time against the Spurs. He was a perfect four-for-four from the

free throw line, and had six rebounds and four assists.

The 31-year-old Wade has struggled mightily in these playoffs, and said earlier in the series that there is "no joy" in competing for the NBA title.

He was singing a different tune on Thursday as the Heat clawed their way back into the series by forcing the Spurs to make 18 turnovers.

Wade also struggled in the semi-finals against Indiana before coming alive in game seven with 21 points.

The Heat also needed a better performance from James, who said he took "full responsibility" for Tuesday's loss and vowed make amends.

James shot 15-of-25 and



had 11 rebounds, four assists and two blocked shots in game four.

James was averaging just 16.7 points per game during the first three games of the finals. He had just 15 points on Tuesday on seven-of-21 shooting.

The four-time league MVP is staking a claim to the title of one of the best players in NBA history.



VS.



NBA FINALS

(Series best-of-seven)

Game 1: SAS 92, MIA 88 (Spurs lead 1-0)
Game 2: MIA 103, SAS 84 (Series tied 1-1)
Game 3: SAS 113, MIA 77 (Spurs lead 2-1)
Game 4: MIA 109, SAS 93 (Series tied 2-2)
Game 5: Jun 16 - 8 pm EDT @SAS
Game 6: Jun 18 - 9 - pm EDT @MIA
Game 7: Jun 20 - 9 pm EDT @MIA

THE MORNING NEWS

Your source for local news in English

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Nutzbeatz Beach Tennis Aruba Powered by Amstel Bright

-- This Sunday, June 16, there will be a tremendous Beatz Tennis tournament/House Party at Eagle Beach. The fun begins at 10:00 a.m. and will last until 11:00 p.m. The beach tennis competition starts at 10:00 a.m. Teams will consist of 2 players each. There are 22 beach tennis courts available, but according to the organizers, the competition is already SOLD OUT! The House party is for FREE for all spectators. Entertainment at the House party is by 12 renowned House DJs, each one of them specialized in their genre, i.e. electronic, mum baton, dupstep, techno and also dance, commercial, and deep. Each DJ will get 1 hour to play their brand of music. Elite Production is in charge of the sound system, so a PERFECT Sound is guaranteed! Entrance to the Beatz Tennis tournament is free. The bar will be well stocked with ice cold Amstel Bright for only AFls. 5 a bottle.

MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	41	27	.603	--	ATLANTA	39	27	.591	--
BALTIMORE	38	29	.567	2.5	WASHINGTON	33	32	.500	5.5
YANKEES	37	29	.561	3.0	PHILADELPHIA	32	35	.478	7.5
TAMPA	35	31	.530	5.0	NY METS	24	37	.393	12.5
TORONTO	29	36	.446	10.5	MIAMI	19	46	.292	19.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	36	28	.562	--	ST. LOUIS	43	23	.652	--
CLEVELAND	32	33	.492	4.5	CINCINNATI	40	27	.597	3.5
KANSAS	31	33	.484	5.0	PITTSBURGH	39	27	.591	4.0
MINNESOTA	29	34	.460	6.5	MILWAUKEE	27	38	.415	15.5
CHICAGO	28	35	.444	7.5	CHICAGO	26	38	.406	16.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	41	27	.603	--	ARIZONA	37	29	.561	--
TEXAS	38	28	.576	2.0	SAN FRANCISCO	34	31	.523	2.5
SEATTLE	29	38	.433	11.5	COLORADO	35	32	.522	2.5
LA ANGELES	28	38	.424	12.0	SAN DIEGO	32	34	.485	5.0
HOUSTON	23	44	.343	17.5	DODGERS	28	37	.431	8.5

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Family Day Celebration!

Saturday, June 15
8pm-Midnight

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Dinner at the Cove

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Receive additional entries with Suited Blackjack, 0/00 on Roulette
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CASINO AND SHOPS

Brazil to kick off Confed. Cup Today

BRASILIA (AFP) - After months of angst over preparation delays, Brazil steps into the global spotlight today when it kicks off the Confederations Cup, a key test of its readiness to stage the World Cup next year.

Six Brazilian cities: Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza, Recife, Rio and Salvador are hosting the two-week soccer tournament, expected to attract some 355,000 Brazilians and foreign tourists.

Brazil, winner of the previous edition in South Africa in 2009, has this year dropped to a new low of 22nd in the rankings of world football's governing body FIFA.

The Selecao is given little chance of lifting the trophy this time around.

The other contenders are current World Cup holders and European champions Spain, European vice-champions Italy, South American champions Uruguay, CONCACAF champions Mexico, Africa champions Nigeria, Asian champions Japan, and Oceania champions Tahiti, very much the minnows.

today's opening game in Brasilia's Mane Garrincha pits



the Brazilians, five-time World Cup winners, against Japan.

For the young Brazilian team coached by wizard Luiz Felipe Scolari and led by Barcelona-bound rising star Neymar, the tournament offers a chance to get experience and confidence for next year's bigger prize.

The average age of the squad is 26 years and six months.

In two recent warm-up matches, they drew 2-2 with England in the inaugural match at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium and beat France 3-0 in Porto Alegre.

But beyond the teams' football prowess, world attention

will focus on whether Brazil is really ready to honor its pledge to stage the best World Cup ever next year.

"The Confederations Cup helps up prepare the World Cup," Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo told reporters Thursday.

"With joint efforts by all the parties, we will arrive on time, although naturally with some concessions with respect to deliveries," FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said.

But he also warned that such delays would not be tolerated for the World Cup, for which all stadiums must be completed by December.

Despite \$15 billion in government investment for the Confederations Cup and the World Cup, the country still faces logistical shortcomings.

Organisers have been struggling to complete the construction or renovation of the six host arenas, hobbled by repeated delays due to strikes, roof collapses and other problems.

Four of the stadiums were delivered to football's world governing body FIFA behind schedule. And in the northeastern city of Salvador last month "a human error" caused part of the roof of the brand new Arena

Fonte Nova to collapse following heavy rains.

"I think that some issues will be solved at the last minute," FIFA President Sepp Blatter told a press conference in Rio Thursday, commenting on the delays in delivering Rio's iconic Maracana arena. That stadium will host a Mexico-Italy game on Sunday.

Rebelo told the same press conference that although the six host stadiums for the Confederations Cup were delivered behind schedule, they were tested and "ready" for the tournament.

Infrastructure problems, with congested airports, soaring air traffic and inadequate urban mobility facilities, are another major headache.

There is also concern about the skyrocketing housing, restaurant and transport prices in several major host cities.

Rio hosts both the Confederations Cup and the World Cup - in addition to a visit by Pope Francis next month. It is now the world's third most expensive city when it comes to hotels, according to a recent Brazilian Tourism Board study.